



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

Cape Wind Energy Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1) What is the purpose of the Cape Wind Energy Project Draft EIS?

The purpose of the Draft EIS is to analyze potential impacts of the applicant's proposed wind energy project site in Nantucket Sound and potential impacts of the four alternatives selected for comparison purposes to gain a better understanding of the full range of potential impacts (i.e. environmental, socio-economic, etc.). The alternative sites, both water based and land based, are being used in the EIS for comparison purposes, to project potential impacts, and to assist federal, state and local resource agencies and the general public in better understanding the potential total impacts involved and also to enable the Corps of Engineers to make a better informed permit decision at the end of this comprehensive environmental review.

2) What are the conclusions of the Cape Wind Energy Project Draft EIS?

There are, in fact, few conclusions drawn in the Draft EIS. The intent of the EIS is to provide information on the potential impacts of the applicant's proposed windfarm site in Nantucket Sound and to provide information on potential impacts at the four alternatives to obtain a better understanding of the relative impacts.

3) What is the recommended site?

There is no recommended site in the Draft EIS. The purpose of the Draft EIS is to analyze potential impacts of the applicant's proposed wind energy project site in Nantucket Sound and potential impacts of the four alternatives to gain a better understanding of the full range of potential impacts (i.e. environmental, socio-economic, etc.). At the end of the EIS review and based on all the information contained in the EIS, the Corps will make a permit determination on the applicant's proposed site, be that in Nantucket Sound or elsewhere. The Corps options at the very end of this review are to permit as proposed, permit with special conditions, or to deny the permit. The alternative sites, both water based and land based, are being used for comparison purposes in this Draft EIS, to project potential impacts, and to assist federal, state and local resource agencies and the general public in better understanding the total range of potential impacts.

4) Why was there a delay in releasing the Draft EIS? I heard the Draft was supposed to be released in late August or early September?

The timeframe was a best-case scenario, the earliest the Draft EIS could be released. The Draft will be released when it is completed.

5) I heard that the Department of Army was holding up the release of the Draft EIS? Why?

Our higher headquarters requested a review of the Draft EIS before it was published. They had questions pertaining to the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) on Cape Cod.

6) Why was the Draft EIS scheduled for release just before the election? Was that intentional?

We hoped to release the Draft EIS in late August 2004, which would have avoided the election period, but it was not quite completed. Our intention is to release the Draft as soon as it is ready to allow people the opportunity to start their reviews and to allow the applicant due process of the permit application.

7) What is in the Draft EIS?

The Draft EIS is a compilation of information, analysis and studies addressing the most relevant potential impacts and public interest factors (i.e. socio-economic, environmental, etc.) that were listed in the EIS Scope of Work. The Draft EIS includes an executive summary, a purpose and need statement, the alternatives analysis, the affected environment, the environmental consequences, a list of preparers, public involvement documentation, a list of cooperating agencies, an acronym list, an index and appendices (technical reports, baseline studies, other agency documents, etc.)

8) Is the Draft EIS the same as the State Draft EIR?

The document is intended to fulfill the regional, state and federal environmental assessment requirements. It is the Federal Draft EIS; it also addresses items identified by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in its Certificate on the Environmental Notification Form filed by the applicant under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA); and the document also includes items identified by the Cape Cod Commission in its letter on the Development of Regional Impact filed under the Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Act. Sections 6.0, 8.0 and 9.0 of the document are specific to the MEPA and CCC requirements.

9) What happens now that the Cape Wind Energy Project Draft EIS has been released?

With the release of the Draft EIS, agencies, stakeholders and groups, and the general public will have an opportunity to review the total Draft EIS to obtain a better understanding on the Cape Wind Energy Project proposal and the potential environmental impacts. There will be a 60-day comment period, with four public hearings. At these hearings, agency representatives, stakeholders and the general public can provide testimony and make statements for the record. All those comments and concerns will be reviewed, analyzed and addressed in the Final EIS.

10) Does a person or group have to attend the hearings for their comments to be included?

No; groups, agencies and the public don't have to attend these public hearings for their comments and concerns to be included in the Final EIS review. Public comments submitted in writing to the Corps during the 60-day comment period are evaluated equally to the hearing testimony submitted at the public hearings. All those comments and concerns will be reviewed, analyzed and addressed in the Final EIS.

11) How long is the Wind Energy Project Draft EIS? How many pages? How many volumes?

The Draft EIS is 4 volumes, almost 4,000 pages (about 1,000 of those pages are comment letters to the state DEIR).

12) How can someone obtain a copy of the Wind Energy Project Draft EIS?

The Wind Energy Project Draft EIS is available on the Corps website: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/ccwf/deis.htm>. Hard copies of the Draft EIS are available at local libraries (i.e. in Barnstable, Yarmouth, Nantucket, Boston, Falmouth, Bourne, New Bedford, Mashpee, etc.). A Compact Disc (CD) will be provided to anyone who requests a copy from: wind.energy@usace.army.mil or by mail from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (Attn: Karen Adams), 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, MA 01742-2751.

13) Will public hearings be held? When and where?

Public hearings are scheduled: on Monday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. (registration to begin at 5 p.m.) at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School on Edgartown Road, in Oak Bluffs, Mass.; on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. (registration to begin at 6 p.m.) at the Mattacheese Middle School at 400 Higgins-Crowell Road in West Yarmouth, Mass.; on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. (registration to begin at 5 p.m.) at the Nantucket Community School at 10 Surfside Road in the Mary P. Walker Auditorium in Nantucket, Mass.; and on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. (registration to begin at 6 p.m.) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Room 10-250 at 77 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge, Mass.

14) Who can get a copy of the Draft EIS?

Anyone who requests a copy of the Draft EIS will be mailed a CD copy from: wind.energy@usace.army.mil or by mail from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (Attn: Karen Adams), 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, MA 01742-2751. There are also hard copies and CD copies available for review at local libraries. The Draft EIS is also available for viewing online at the Corps website: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

15) Is the Wind Energy Project Draft EIS available on line?

The Draft EIS is available online at the Corps website: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/ccwf/deis.htm>

16) How long will the public have to review the Wind Energy Project DEIS?

NEPA requires a comment period of at least 45 days. The Corps comment period will be 60 days long. Once the Draft EIS is published in the Federal Register there will be 60-day public comment period. The public comment period will be from Nov. 9, 2004 to Jan. 10, 2005.

17) How do we know that information is accurate?

Besides the interested groups, agencies and the general public, there are 17 federal, state and local cooperating agencies that are reviewing the Draft EIS. They each have their own area of expertise (i.e. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, National Marine Fisheries Service, FAA, Dept. of Energy, etc.). They will review the entire document with particular attention to the information it contains in their area of expertise. We seek public comment on the Draft EIS to determine if others believe the information to be complete and accurate.

18) What will you do with those public and agency comments?

Comments from the cooperating agencies, the stakeholders and groups, the public, and from the public hearings will be reviewed and analyzed for their content. Those issues and concerns will be addressed in the Final EIS.

19) What if additional studies are needed to complete the EIS?

The Corps will coordinate with the federal, state and local cooperating agencies on whether additional studies are needed as part of the EIS. A determination will be made after that coordination is completed whether additional information or study is needed.

20) When will the Wind Energy Project Final EIS be completed?

If we stay on the current schedule, we anticipate that the Final EIS will be completed in mid-2005. It normally takes about 6 months from the publication of the Draft EIS to complete the Final EIS. Completion will really depend on all the issues and concerns presented by the agencies, the stakeholders and groups, and the general public during the public comment period on the Draft EIS. These issues and concerns will be reviewed and addressed in the Final EIS.

21) How long before a permit decision can be expected?

Once the Wind Energy Project Final EIS is completed and published, a Record of Decision can be made after 30 days and the applicant will then be notified as to whether we are issuing, issuing with conditions or denying the permit. If the review process stays on the current schedule, the Final EIS and a permit decision cannot be completed until at least mid-2005.

22) Who contributed to the Draft EIS?

Everyone who has expressed an opinion about the wind energy project proposal has contributed to the Draft EIS, from the issues and concerns raised in the first scoping meetings in early 2002, to the alternative site selections, through the cooperating agencies review and MTC stakeholders meetings and through upcoming public hearings and comments on the Draft EIS. Some 17 federal, state and local cooperating agencies have been following this in-depth environmental review from the beginning and meet periodically to discuss issues and concerns. The actual Draft EIS document has many contributors and studies and those will be listed in the document. This comprehensive environmental review has been a very public process from the very start and will continue to be so until it is completed and a permit decision is rendered.

23) Who actually wrote the Draft EIS?

The document was a collaborative effort. The applicant was responsible for supplying the basic data and for meeting the state's requirements under MEPA and the Cape Cod Commission requirements; the Corps wrote some sections in-house and for others used a third party contractor, TRC.

24) Is this the final review or will there be others?

This document is intended to fulfill the regional, state and federal environmental assessment requirements as the DRI/EEIR/DEIS. The Draft EIS will be reviewed by the cooperating federal, state and local agencies, the stakeholders and the general public. Their issues and concerns will be addressed in the Final EIS. The Corps will write a Record of Decision based

upon weighing and balancing the findings in the Final EIS supporting a permit decision. That will be the Corps' final review. The Corps cannot issue a permit until specific permits or regulatory reviews and approvals have been made.

25) Does the Corps have the final decision on whether or not the Windfarm will be built?

The Corps is the lead federal agency on the EIS, an environmental review, with 16 other cooperating agencies participating. When the Final EIS is completed and comments are reviewed and addressed, the Corps will make a Record of Decision on the proposal including a permit decision on whether the structures can be built in Corps jurisdictional waters. Additionally, the Corps cannot issue a permit until certain other required permits or regulatory reviews and approvals have been made. Generally, the approvals need to be issued in order – local, state and finally federal. The Corps does not have the authority to overrule the local and state decisions.

26) What will be the impacts of the proposed project?

There are varying temporary or long-term impacts to geology, physical oceanography, benthic resources, finfish, protected marine species, terrestrial ecology, avian resource, wetland resources, water quality, cultural and recreational resources/visual, noise, transportation, electrical and magnetic fields, air and climate, and socioeconomics. The Executive Summary includes a concise accounting of these.(i.e. combination of high relative humidity, freezing temperatures, and overcast or nighttime sky). Ice usually takes form thin sheet as it attaches to wind turbines (similar to airplane). Risk of ice fragments thrown from turning rotor and causing injury is relatively small.

27) What is the Corps response to criticism that the Draft EIS does not go into enough detail on potential impacts?

This is an ongoing environmental review. The state we are at – publication of the Draft EIS – is a mid-point in the review process. It is a time to look at all the issues and concerns addressed in the Draft EIS and determine if they have been properly captured and reviewed and if any relevant issue has been overlooked. This is not the end point. This is a Draft. Now is the opportunity for groups, the general public and the other federal, state, and local agencies to comment for the record on what, if anything, is missing, what could be further developed, and what additional information is needed to make this environmental review complete. This is a Draft report. We want everyone to comment as to where they feel the information is incorrect or incomplete. This is an ongoing process. If new issues or concerns develop those issues will be addressed. This is all part of the public involvement process and environmental review. Comments will be addressed in the Final EIS expected next year.

28) What kind of feedback does the Corps expect from the 16 federal, state and local cooperating agencies?

The Corps has already provided to federal, state and local cooperating agencies a pre-release draft of the portions of the EIS that pertain to their individual areas of expertise for agency review. They have reviewed these and we have attempted to address and incorporate their comments and concerns into the released Draft EIS. We expect that we'll receive additional, more formal, comment from the agencies during the public comment period.

29) Does the Corps itself support the windfarm proposal? Does it support renewable energy?

The Corps is the lead federal agency on an in-depth environmental review with 16 other cooperating agencies on the wind energy project proposal. The Corps has no position on the wind energy project. The Corps is neither for nor against the proposal. The Corps is not the energy policy agency for the federal government. We look to the Department of Energy and the President's Energy Policy for the Federal policy/position. We conduct permit application reviews for a wide variety of projects, including dredging, piers and other coastal work and fill in wetland for housing, shopping malls and transportation projects.

30) How can the Corps permit something in Nantucket Sound that belongs to the state of Massachusetts?

The Corps jurisdiction is over all work seaward of mean high water. Within 3 miles both the state and federal government may regulate activities. Beyond 3 miles it is typically only Federal jurisdiction.

31) Why has there been so much controversy about the proposed wind energy project?

The wind energy project proposal is a potential major change to the viewscape, is unique and unprecedented in the U.S. and thus has generated a lot of attention, both for and against the proposal.

32) Is the wind energy project proposal getting a thorough environmental review?

The wind project proposal is receiving a thorough environmental review by 17 federal, state and local agencies and by many other concerned and interested groups and the public.

33) What are the other agencies involved and what must they approve or permit?

The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board has to grant a license; the DEIS and DEIR have to fulfill NEPA and MEPA requirements; the FEIR must contain a MA Secretary of EOECA Certificate (if the FEIR is found adequate); the Cape Cod Commission (will participate in the DEIR and FEIR Review as part of the development of regional impacts process; the Local Conservation Commission (of the Towns of Barnstable and Yarmouth) must review proposal as it relates to Wetlands Protection Act and Local Wetlands Bylaw and issue an Order of Conditions; the MA DEP must provide a Chapter 91 Waterways License, and provide a Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Superseding Order of Conditions (if local Order of Conditions is appealed); the MA Coastal Zone Management Office must provide a Coastal Zone Consistency Review; the Corps must provide a Section 10 permit for work in navigable waters; Mass Highways must provide a permit to access state highways; EPA must provide a Stormwater Permit as part of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System; Mineral Management Service will need to approve an Oil Spill Response Plan; and the U.S. Coast Guard must provide a Private Aids-to-Navigation approval. There may be additional permits, authorizations and appeals processes not listed. In some cases, the sequence may be dependent upon approvals listed.

34) What about the oil storage issue and the potential for an oil spill?

Mineral Management Service will review and approve Cape Wind's Oil Spill Response Plan prior to any oil being stored within the project. This information is not necessary for the DEIS.

35) If the permit is approved, when will the wind energy project be built?

Once a permit is issued, the applicant can start building at any time. But that is really up to the developer, Cape Wind Associates, LLC. Their optimistic schedule for the entire project, if the project receives the necessary local, state and federal approvals and financing is achieved is to start construction late in 2005.

36) What about the Corps jurisdictional issue?

The Corps of Engineers permit is issued under its jurisdiction of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States. The geographic boundary was extended by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. That is the authority. NEPA is the process under which we conduct the review.

37) What are the key issues of the opponents to the wind project?

Some of the key issues of the opponents include potential impacts to visual, navigation, birds, recreational boating, recreational and commercial fishing, etc. Some also question the real estate issue and the Corps jurisdictional issue.

38) Why did this wind energy project environmental review take so long – it's going on three years?

Cape Wind Associates LLC applied for a permit in November 2001 for a wind energy project development. Because of the potential impacts it required a major environmental review and involved some 17 federal, state and local agencies. Some people have criticized the Corps for moving too quickly. Others have said it's moving too slowly. The Corps, which has no stake in the wind energy project either way, is taking as long as it takes to do a thorough and complete environmental review as required by its regulation and NEPA.

39) What has led up to this point in time in the Wind Energy Project EIS review?

The Corps has been working closely with the federal, state and local cooperating agencies on developing the EIS since Cape Wind submitted a permit application in November 2001. The Corps reviewed the application and determined in December 2001 that an EIS was required because of the potential environmental impacts. From scoping hearings and public meetings held in the spring of 2002, 17 potential sites were identified by the public and agencies as possible alternatives for the wind energy project proposal. Five screening criteria were identified to evaluate those 17 alternatives. Working with the cooperating agencies, the Corps determined that it needed to take a more flexible, subjective approach to developing representative sites for the alternatives analysis. A strict pass/fail screening process would not work.

NEPA allows the Corps to limit alternatives to a reasonable number so that the EIS can compare the alternatives. The Corps, with cooperating agency consultation, determined to use representative alternative samples limited to: 1) Shallow water off-shore site (applicant's preferred alternative of Nantucket Sound); 2) Deeper water off-shore site; 3) On-shore site; 4) Two or more smaller sites combined to achieve the intended purpose and need. Using that flexible concept, the Corps reduced the number of alternative sites from 17 to four specific sites that were carried forward for more detailed review in the Draft EIS.

40) What are the four alternative sites?

The onshore alternative is MMR – Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod, Mass.; the shallow water alternatives are three – the applicant's preferred alternative of Horseshoe Shoals, and Tuckernuck Shoal, and Hankerchief Shoal, Mass; the deep water alternative site is the area south of Tuckernuck Island, Mass.; the combined sites are New Bedford and a reduced footprint at Horseshoe Shoal.

41) What was the screening criteria used for selecting the various alternatives?

The screening criteria to measure the alternatives were: availability of renewable energy (i.e. wind power classification); ISO New England grid connection available (connection point, transmission/distribution lines, efficiency/capacity); available land or water area; engineering constraints (constructability, geotechnical conditions, water depths); and legal/regulatory constraints (endangered species habitat, shipping channels, etc.).

42) Why did the Corps use representative samples for its alternatives? What was the purpose?

Using representative samples gave the Corps a basis for comparison. We were better able to determine what the relative merits were of each type of alternative site. The Alternatives Analysis gave us a better understanding of economics and environmental impacts based upon site-specific evaluation. The Alternatives Analysis showed what were the impacts, what were the costs associated with the proposal. The Alternatives Analysis provided perspective, whether it was in the public interest. It gave us relative benefits, relative costs, relative impacts. We were not looking at cost vs. benefits ratio. That was for the applicant to determine. The Alternatives Analysis helped us gain perspective on whether the impacts in Horseshoe Shoals would be greater than somewhere else. This process helped ensure that we did what was in accordance with the intent of NEPA for the public interest determination of this wind energy project review as required by our regulations

43) Is this the first offshore project in the United States?

There are onshore wind energy projects in the United States, even in New England. There are offshore wind energy projects in Europe. But this would be the first offshore wind energy project in the United States.

44) What is the next step in the Cape Wind wind energy project EIS process?

The cooperating agencies, the stakeholders and the public will review the Draft EIS and provide comments and concerns to the Corps for review and analysis in preparation of the Final EIS.

45) How can the Corps conduct an adequate review of this large wind energy project proposal under its antiquated Section 10 authority that covers only navigation and dates back to 1899?

In 1969, the Corps expanded its scope of review under its traditional Section 10 authority to include consideration of the environment, and a wide range of public interest factors including such things as economics, aesthetics, wetlands, historic properties, land use, energy needs, water quality, fish and wildlife, water supply, property ownership, general environmental concerns, the needs and welfare of the people, and more. The Corps considers the positive and negative aspects of all these factors in evaluating Section 10 permit

applications, and makes a decision on whether or not the project is in the public interest (i.e. the benefits outweigh the detriments). Also, because of the potential environmental impacts, NEPA requires an EIS, a thorough environmental review, be completed.

46) How many alternatives were considered?

From the public scoping hearings, MTC stakeholder meetings, agency review, and other meetings, 17 sites were proposed as possible alternatives – 8 on-shore sites and 9 off-shore sites – that could be connected to the ISO New England grid. That preliminary list of alternatives was analyzed using the five screening criteria. Using those criteria the list was narrowed to four alternatives.

47) How did the Corps determine the short list of four alternatives?

Working with the cooperating agencies, listening to the public and the stakeholders, and consulting with experts in the fields of wind power and renewable energy, the Corps determined to use the five screening criteria developed for the alternative analysis to reduce the 17 proposed alternative sites to four representative sites that went forward for more detailed review in the Draft EIS.

48) How did the Corps arrive at the final list of four alternative sites?

Through much coordination with the cooperating agencies and consultation with experts in the fields of renewable energy and wind power, the Corps determined to use five screening criteria to reduce the original number of possible alternatives from 17 to four, a representative sample of a number of reasonable alternative sites for further analysis and review detailed in the Draft EIS.

49) How will the Corps make the final determination for the EIS?

Sound science and engineering are the basis for the data gathering that have led to the compilation and completion of the published Draft EIS. This has involved a lot of research, data gathering, studies and agency review prior to the Draft EIS being completed. The process will be continued through the public comment period on the Draft EIS and through publication of the Final EIS.

50) What happens if the EIS concludes there is a better site with less environmental impacts other than Horseshoe Shoals? Can the Corps require the applicant to pursue that site?

The EIS will make no such conclusions. The Corps can't tell the applicant where to build a project. But if the applicant's proposed site proves to be not in the interest of the public and other alternative sites are available the Corps has three choices. The Corps can issue a permit for the applicant's proposed site; the Corps can issue a permit with special conditions for the applicant's proposed site; or the Corps can deny the permit for the applicant's proposed site.

51) What if no site proves to be in the public interest? Will the Corps then deny the permit?

In the end, after the Final EIS is completed and a Record of Decision is made, the Corps will have to make a permit decision on the "applicant's preferred alternative." After the Final EIS is completed and the potential impacts of the applicant's preferred alternative are compared to the impacts of the other alternative sites, a record of decision will be made and a final

permit decision will be made on the applicant's preferred site: approving the permit; approving the permit with special conditions; or denying the permit.

52) What has the Corps done to ensure objectivity in this review process?

The Corps has made every effort to ensure objectivity in this environmental review process by seeking federal, state and local agency participation in the review, involving the public, the stakeholders, and using consultants who are experts in the field of renewable energy and wind power, including the Peer Review Committee, the Garrad Hassan Report, and our independent consultant, Bioengineering Group, and third party contractor, TRC.

53) What is the Peer Review Committee and what is their role in the EIS?

The Corps had its consultant, The Bioengineering Group, put together a group of experts in the field of renewable energy and wind power, now referred to as The Peer Review Committee. They were asked to comment on the EIS purpose and need information and the screening criteria. They did not review specific sites. Since there are no published standards for offshore wind power development, the Corps hoped that this review would provide an indication of any consensus within the industry. The Peer Group consensus was that the Corps is looking at the correct factors in the development of the EIS.

54) What is Garrad Hassan Report and what is its significance in regards to the EIS?

The Corps requested the British firm Garrad Hassan, a leader in wind power development, to conduct a study of present day and future (1-3 years out) wind power development to obtain a better understanding of industry current standards and proposed future developments, to gain a broader understanding of the "state of the art" of the wind power industry worldwide. This report helped the Corps decide on proposing a deeper water site in its alternatives analysis, since the wind power industry is currently anticipating constructing deeper water sites in the next few years (in waters up to 98 feet deep). The report indicated that the industry was moving toward deeper water projects. The technology of this industry is advancing rapidly.

55) Why is the Corps the lead federal agency on the EIS?

The Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency on the EIS because of its jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or effecting navigable waters of the United States. The proposed work falls into the Section 10 review. Section 10 is the authority. The process is NEPA – the National Environmental Policy Act. Any other federal agency, if it had the lead, would have to follow the same or similar process.

56) Can people still provide comments on the EIS?

Right now, we are accepting public comments on the Draft EIS. Additionally, scoping continues throughout the EIS process. Public comments on the Draft EIS or the scope of work can be sent to the Corps permit Project Manager Karen Adams at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or to the E-mail address: wind.energy@usace.army.mil.

57) When the initial EIS timeline was published at the start of this review process it indicated a Draft EIS would be available for review in January 2003. What happened to that schedule?

The initial timeline (schedule), showing the earliest possible dates for all events in the EIS process, listed the Draft EIS to be available in January 2003. That was merely a projection of the earliest it could be available. That timeline was provided to show the public the steps involved and the earliest they could expect to see any of the documents published. Obviously, more time was needed for the various steps in the review process. With publication of the Draft EIS now, we anticipate a Final EIS published and permit decision made in 2005.

58) What other agencies are involved in the Cape Wind wind energy project EIS process?

Various federal, state and local agencies are involved in the EIS review process including: the Federal Aviation Administration; the Cape Cod Commission; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office; the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Marine Fisheries Service; the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah; the State Historic Preservation Officer and Massachusetts Historic Commission; the U.S. Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service; the National Park Service; the U.S. Department of Energy; the Massachusetts Military Reservation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Navy and Federal Communication Commission have also been invited to be cooperating agencies.

59) What happened to the other potential renewable energy sources, such as solar and water, from the Scope of Work? Aren't they being considered?

These potential other renewable energy sources are addressed in the Draft EIS. Essentially, other renewable energy sources besides windpower were found to not have the potential to reach the stated purpose and need of the proposal – a utility-scale renewable energy facility providing power to the New England grid. The other renewable energy sources serve much smaller energy needs and are not appropriate for this proposal. That is explained in more detail in the Draft EIS.

60) Where can I get more information on the status of the wind energy project Draft EIS?

More information about the Cape Wind wind energy project Draft EIS/permit request is available at the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select projects and then Cape Wind windfarm permit. Or you can call 800-343-4789 or if call within Massachusetts call 800-362-4367.

61) Where can I send my comments on the wind energy project permits?

Comments can be sent to the Corps EIS Project Manager Karen Adams at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, (Attn: Regulatory Division), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or to the E-mail address: wind.energy@usace.army.mil.

62) What exactly is a wind energy project?

A wind energy project is an area of wind generating turbines that harness wind energy that can convert that energy into electricity for sale to utility companies.

63) What is being proposed with the Cape Wind wind energy project?

The proposed project involves construction of 130 wind turbine generators (WTG) producing energy with a separate power collection/transmission structure over an offshore ocean area of about 24 square miles (1/3 – 1/2 mile spacing). There will be a collection grid of subsurface lines and then two transmissions lines connecting to the mainland grid on Cape Cod. The foundation design being considered involves a pile structure driven into the ocean bottom. The structures will be up to 420 feet above the water surface (above MLLW) with the hub height about 260 feet above the water surface. Each turbine will generate up to a maximum of 3.6 megawatts of electricity. The 16-foot diameter piles would occupy a total of 2 acres.

64) Why was the Nantucket Sound chosen?

The Horseshoe Shoal location in Nantucket Sound was chosen, according to the applicant, because of its consistent winds, shallow water depths, proximity to power grid transfer, and distance from commercial shipping lanes and flight paths. The offshore location has optimal wind speeds and directions and minimal land use.

65) Who is proposing this work?

It is being proposed by Cape Wind Associates LLC of Boston and Yarmouthport, MA.

66) Where is the proposed project located?

The proposed wind turbine array would occupy about 24 square miles in an area of Nantucket Sound known as Horseshoe Shoal between Nantucket Island and the Cape Cod mainland.

67) Has this been done before?

There are onshore wind energy projects in the United States, even in New England. There are offshore wind energy projects in Europe. But this would be the first offshore wind energy project in the U.S. The towers are proposed for an area outside of state waters.

68) Is this outside of state waters?

The towers are proposed for an area outside of state waters in an area that was international waters until December 1988 when our territorial seas were extended by Presidential Proclamation (#5928).

69) What is the purpose of the wind energy project?

The applicant proposes to generate up to 454 megawatts of renewable energy that will be distributed to the New England regional power grid, including Cape Cod and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The power will be transmitted to shore via a submarine cable system to a landfall site in Yarmouth, Mass.

70) What are the nearest land locations?

The offshore distances from Cape Cod mainland are 4.7 miles from Point Gammon (mainland); 6.0 miles from Cotuit; and 6.8 miles from Craigville Beach. The distance from the Southeast portion would be about 11 miles from Nantucket Island (Great Point); and from the Western WTG would be about 5.5 miles to Martha's Vineyard (Cape Poge).

71) What is an EIS?

It's an Environmental Impact Statement. It "tells the story" of why a project is being proposed. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that federal agencies prepare an EIS for major federal actions that significantly affect the human environment. It is used to identify, analyze and document the effects and issues associated with a proposed action as well as reasonable alternatives. An EIS identifies and evaluates potential environmental impacts, and ensures that the public and agencies are involved in the process before any decisions are made. It's used to evaluate all issues – technical, environmental, economic, social, etc. – and describes a range of alternatives.

72) Who is doing the wind energy project EIS?

The Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency on the wind energy project EIS and has 16 federal, state and local cooperating agencies involved with the review process.

73) What does scoping mean?

Scoping begins the Federal environmental review process that eventually leads to a decision by the Federal government on a permit application after an EIS is completed. Scoping is the start of the process to identify issues that need to be addressed in the EIS. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that we have an early and open process for determining the full range of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues or areas that should be analyzed in depth in the EIS. Scoping continues throughout the EIS process. We welcome an open forum and exchange of information throughout the whole EIS process.

74) Who decided an EIS was needed?

The Corps of Engineers New England District made the determination in January 2002 that a federal EIS would be required for the proposed wind energy project in Nantucket Sound.

75) Can you project if the permit will be approved?

That's what this EIS process will determine. This entire EIS process will help determine if the project will be permitted by the Corps under its Section 10 jurisdiction. Once it goes through the full federal and state environmental reviews and a Record of Decision is made, the Corps will make a permit decision on the Section 10 permit request.

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